

Serial No. 10/799,393
Amdt. Dated February 8, 2006
Reply to Restriction Requirement of December 8, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (original) An in-grade light fixture, comprising:
a light fixture housing arranged to be buried substantially below grade level, said light fixture housing having a light opening substantially at grade level;

a light source arranged within said light fixture housing and generating light that passes through said light opening;

a faceplate mechanism mounted over said light opening;
and

an adjustment mechanism to allow the height and angle of said faceplate mechanism to be adjusted over said light opening to match the height and angle of the surrounding grade level and angle.

Claim 2. (original) The light fixture of claim 1, wherein said faceplate mechanism comprises a lens, said light from said light sources passing through said lens.

Claim 3. (original) The light fixture of claim 2, wherein said lens arranged to support the weight of foot or vehicle traffic without failing.

Claim 4. (original) The light fixture of claim 2, wherein said lens is made of tempered borosilicate glass.

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Claim 5. (original) The light fixture of claim 1, wherein said adjustment mechanism comprises a plurality of mounting posts on said light fixture housing, said faceplate mechanism arranged on said mounting posts, the height of each of said mounting posts being adjustable to adjust the height and angle of said faceplate mechanism.

Claim 6. (original) The light fixture of claim 5, further comprising a plurality of threaded post holes, each of said plurality of mounting posts having a threaded section to mate with a respective one of said threaded post holes, the turning of each of said mounting posts within its respective post hole adjusting the height of said post.

Claim 7. (original) The light fixture of claim 5, further comprising a leveling collar resting on said mounting posts, with said faceplate mechanism resting on said leveling collar, adjusting the height of said mounting posts causing the height of said leveling collar to adjust.

Claim 8. (original) The light fixture of claim 7, further comprising an optical chamber resting on said leveling collar with substantially all of said chamber within said light fixture housing, said light source arranged within said optical chamber.

Claim 9. (original) An in-grade light fixture, comprising:
a light fixture housing arranged to be buried substantially below grade level, said light fixture housing having a light opening substantially at grade level;
a light source arranged within said light fixture housing and generating light that passes through said light

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opening;

a faceplate mechanism arranged over said light opening and held in place by mounting screws, said faceplate mechanism being at least partially rotatable over said light opening such that the location of said mounting screws can be adjusted around said light opening.

Claim 10. (original) The light fixture of claim 9, wherein said mounting screws pass through said faceplate mechanism such that the top of said screws are visible.

Claim 11. (original) The light fixture of claim 10, wherein said faceplate mechanism comprises a lens, said light from said light sources passing through said lens.

Claim 12. (original) The light fixture of claim 11, wherein said lens arranged to support the weight of foot or vehicle traffic without failing.

Claim 13. (original) The light fixture of claim 11, wherein said lens is made of tempered borosilicate glass.

Claim 14. (original) The light fixture of claim 9, wherein said light opening is circular and said faceplate mechanism is at least partially rotatable over said light opening such that the location of said mounting screws can be adjusted around the circumference of said light opening.

Claim 16. (original) The light fixture of claim 9, wherein said light fixture housing is buried in proximity to another similar one of said light fixture housing, said mounting screws being adjustable around said light opening

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to align with mounting screws in said other light fixture housing.

Claim 17. (withdrawn) The light fixture of claim 9, further comprising a faceplate having a plurality of faceplate holes, a nut ring having a plurality of nut ring holes and a leveling collar having a plurality of collar slots, said leveling collar arranged between said nut ring and faceplate, each of said mounting screws passing through a respective one of said faceplate holes, a respective one of said collar slots, and threaded into a respective one of said nut ring holes, said leveling collar in a fixed position over said light opening, the location of said mounting screws being adjusted by rotating said faceplate and said mounting screws sliding within said collar slots.

Claim 18. (withdrawn) An in-grade light fixture, comprising:

a light fixture housing arranged to be buried within a hole and substantially below grade level, said light fixture housing having a light opening substantially at grade level;

a holding mechanism for holding said light fixture housing at the desired height within a hole prior to being buried.

Claim 19. (withdrawn) The light fixture of claim 18, wherein said holding mechanism comprises an axial shelf and a plurality of elongated stilts mounted to said axial shelf and extending to the bottom of said hole to hold said housing at said desired height.

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Claim 20. (withdrawn) The light fixture of claim 19, wherein said axial shelf comprises a plurality of holes to accept one end of said elongated stilts.

Claim 21. (withdrawn) The light fixture of claim 20, wherein each of said plurality of holes is circular and each of said elongated stilts has a circular cross-section with a diameter to fit closely within a respective one of said plurality of holes.

Claim 22. (withdrawn) The light fixture of claim 20, wherein each of said plurality of elongated stilts comprises a PVC pipe.

Claim 23. (withdrawn) The light fixture of claim 20, further comprising a plurality of hole sleeves, wherein each of said plurality of holes further includes a respective one of said hole sleeves arranged to hold a respective one of said elongated stilts within its respective one of said plurality of holes.

Claim 24. (withdrawn) The light fixture of claim 23, further comprising a plurality of sleeve mounting screws, each of which is arranged to pass through a respective one of said hole sleeves and into its respective one of said elongated stilts.

Claim 25. (withdrawn) The light fixture of claim 18, wherein said holding mechanism comprises a plurality of rebar clips arranged to rest on rebar to hold the light fixture housing at the desired height within a hole.

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Claim 26. (withdrawn) The light fixture of claim 25, further comprising a axial shelf, said rebar clips arranged on said axial shelf.

Claim 27. (withdrawn) The light fixture of claim 25, further comprising rebar tie wires to hold said rebar clips to said rebar.

Claim 28. (withdrawn) An optical chamber with an anti-condensation valve that helps eliminate condensation, comprising:

a chamber for holding a light source; and

an anti-condensation valve on said chamber that allows air to escape from the optical chamber when the pressure increases inside the chamber, but does not allow air to flow into the chamber when the inside pressure drops, said chamber being otherwise airtight, said chamber forming a vacuum when the inside temperature drops, thereby reducing the formation of condensation in said chamber.

Claim 29. (withdrawn) The optical chamber of claim 28, wherein said chamber comprises a chamber housing and a faceplate with an airtight seal between the two, the light from said optical chamber passing through said faceplate.

Claim 30. (withdrawn) The optical chamber of claim 29, wherein said chamber housing is arranged to be housed within an in-grade light fixture housing having an light opening, said faceplate arranged over said light opening, said chamber vacuum allowing said chamber and faceplate to be removed from said light fixture housing as a unit.

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Claim 31. (withdrawn) The optical chamber of claim 28, wherein said anti-condensation valve comprises an air release button that can be pushed to allow air into said chamber to release the chamber vacuum.

Claim 32. (withdrawn) The optical chamber of claim 28, wherein said anti-condensation valve comprises a longitudinal air passageway and passageway valve arranged in said passageway, said longitudinal air passageway arranged to allow air to pass out of said chamber through said passageway and passageway valve, said passageway valve arranged to prevent air from passing into said chamber.

Claim 33. (withdrawn) The optical chamber of claim 32, wherein said passageway valve comprises a duckbill valve having a slit arranged to allow air to pass out of said chamber through said slit, said slit closing to block air from passing into said chamber.

Claim 34. (original) The optical chamber of clamber of claim 31, wherein said anti-condensation valve comprises one or more air ports to allow air to pass into said chamber, said air ports blocked when said button is not pushed, said air ports open when said button is pushed.

Claim 35. (withdrawn) An in-grade light fixture, comprising:

a light fixture housing arranged to be buried substantially below grade level, said light fixture housing having a light opening substantially at grade level;

an optical chamber arranged within said light fixture housing, said chamber holding a light source generating

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light that passes through said light opening;

a faceplate mechanism mounted over said light opening and to said optical chamber and held in place by mounting screws, said faceplate mechanism being at least partially rotatable over said light opening such that the location of said mounting screws can be adjusted around said light opening;

an adjustment mechanism to allow the height and angle of said faceplate mechanism to be adjusted over said light opening to match the height and angle of the surrounding grade level and angle;

a holding mechanism for holding said light fixture housing at the desired height within a hole prior to being buried; and

an anti-condensation valve on said optical chamber that allows air to escape from the optical chamber when the pressure increases inside the chamber, but does not allow air to flow into the chamber when the inside pressure drops, said chamber being otherwise airtight and having an airtight connection to said faceplate mechanism, said optical chamber forming a vacuum when the inside temperature drops, thereby reducing the formation of condensation in said optical chamber.